**Power Supply position in Rural Areas in Punjab**

2750. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the power supply position in Punjab;

(b) whether Government are aware that power-supply position is very bad in rural areas especially in agricultural sector in Punjab;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation; and

(d) whether the land to be irrigated will have enough water with the number of tubewells setup in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The details of power supply position in Punjab during April, 1995—January, 1994 is given below—

Period April, 1993—January, 1994

| | (Figures in MU net) |
|---|---|
| Requirement . . . | 16155 |
| Availability . . . | 15600 |
| Shortage . . . . | 555 |
| %age . . . . | 3.4 |
| Northern Region % shortage . | 7.1 |
| All India shortage . . | 7.4 |

Agricultural consumers were supplied 13 hrs. day power supply.

(c) In order to make more power available in rural areas which are predominantly agricultural, instructions have been issued from time to time to give minimum 8 hrs|day supply to agricultural consumers. Various other measures being taken to improve the availability of power in Punjab include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing capacity, reduction in transmission and distribution losses,, implementation of demend management etc.

(d) According to Ground Water Bord, the estimated ground water potential of Punjab in terms of electrict pumsets is 7 lakhs. Up to the end of January, 1994, 6,60,443 pumpsets stand electrified in the States.

**Fly-ash Discharge from thermal power Plants**

2751. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thermal Power Plants in the country often complain of supply of sub-standard coal which leads to more discharge of waste-ash than the standard; coal;

(b) if so, what is the percentage or waste-ash discharged by power plants per tonne standard coal;

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure the supply of standard coal to thermal power plants;

(d) how much land has been covered under this waste-ash in various power-plants; and

(e) what steps Government hav taken to minimise land wastage due to such ash-dumping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU: (a) There are/have been complaints of receiving lower grade of coals than the design grade coal by Power Stations. The concept of standard coal